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(72) BRANDHOFF, STEFAN, DE
(71) LOHMANN GMBH & CO. KG, DE
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(54) **BANDAGE SYNTHÉTIQUE RIGIDE**
(54) **SYNTHETIC RIGID BANDAGE**

(57) L'invention concerne un bandage synthétique rigide, notamment pour immobiliser et/ou pour soutenir un membre malade ou blessé de l'appareil locomoteur humain ou animal. Ce bandage comprend une partie centrale durcissable, formée par une ou plusieurs couches, imprégnées de résine synthétique, de bandes allongées d'un produit textile plat. Cette partie centrale est recouverte d'un côté avec un rembourrage et de l'autre côté avec une feuille de recouvrement perméable à la vapeur d'eau, qui est élastique dans le sens longitudinal et/ou transversal. Ladite partie centrale doit être conservée dans un emballage étanche à l'humidité et peut être modelée lorsqu'elle est prête à l'application. L'invention est caractérisée en ce que la feuille de recouvrement est séparée de la couche imprégnée de résine par un élément d'écartement.

(57) The invention relates to a synthetic rigid bandage designed especially for immobilising and/or supporting a diseased or wounded limb of a human or animal motor system. Said bandage comprises a hardenable central part formed by one or more layers impregnated with synthetic resin of elongated bands from a flat textile product. Said central part is covered with a padding on one side and with a water vapour permeable covering sheet on the other side, said covering sheet being elastic in the length and/or width direction. Said central part must be kept in a moisture-proof packaging and can be shaped when it is ready to be applied. The invention is characterised in that the covering sheet is separated from the resin impregnated layer by a spacing member.



Synthetic Rigid Bandage

- This invention relates to a synthetic rigid bandage especially for splinting and/or supporting a diseased or 5 injured limb of the human or animal apparatus of locomotion, comprising a curable core which is formed by one or more synthetic resin-impregnated layers of longitudinal strips of a textile fabric, is covered at the one side thereof with a pad and on the other side thereof with a 10 water vapour-permeable, longitudinally and/or transversally elastic film or sheet cover, and is to be stored in a moisture-proof package, said core being mouldable in its ready-for-application state.
- 15 The state of the art includes a large number of documents describing orthopaedic splints or supports, whose materials as well as the means for manufacturing are in principle largely similar to those described in the introductory part of Claim 1 of the subject matter of the application.
- 20 Textile substrates of natural or synthetic and frequently glass fibres are mostly used as starting materials; these are impregnated with a curable synthetic resin and are stored - mostly in the form of a roll - in a film envelope, protected against access of a curing medium.
- 25 As curing agents are provided, inter alia:
- a) Ultraviolet or X-rays; e.g. in interaction with polyurethane and a photoinitiator according to US 3 656 475.
 - b) Action of heat; for instance, an orthopaedic bandage 30 of thick textile material with a thermoplastic composition containing 60-80%-wt. of saturated linear polyester and 20-40%-wt. of resin with a low crystallization point and a softening temperature of about 45°C is cured according to US 4 326 509.
 - c) Air humidity or water; for instance, a textile 35 substrate is impregnated with resin from the group of

water-curable isocyanates, stored in a porous envelope and is impregnated in water for curing, according to DE-PG 23 57 931.

- 5 d) Semirigid, resilient supports for injured or diseased limbs are known from US 4 968 542 and are likewise cured by a reaction between resin and curing agent.

From multiple negative experience it has turned out as a disadvantage in the stocking of resin-impregnated textile substrates that in common systems of the above-described kind which comprise resin-impregnated cores after an unpredictable time of storage the resin penetrates or bleeds through the cover. This leads to skin contact with the hands of the user and thereby to a possible risk since 10 the user is to work without a corresponding protective device (gloves). Moreover, the product is rendered 15 unusable.

20 The object of this invention is to improve a synthetic rigid bandage of the kind mentioned in the introductory part of Claim 1 in such a way that in the stocking of resin-impregnated textile fabrics or nonwovens even for an extended period of time the passage of resin through the 25 cover is securely prevented, using uncomplicated and inexpensive means.

To achieve this object in a synthetic rigid bandage of the kind mentioned at the outset it is proposed according to the invention that a spacer is introduced between the film 30 or sheet cover and the resin-impregnated core which is connected with the said film as the outer layer by a segmental, water vapour-permeable pressure-sensitive adhesive coating.

35 By applying, for example, a hydrophobic, air-permeable and longitudinally and/or transversally elastic nonwoven, a

cotton wool, a plastic foam or a textile fabric onto the inner wall of the cover film, a disadvantageous contact between resin and film is prevented so that bleeding-through of the resin and its disadvantageous consequences are prevented completely.

5 The spacer does not suck the resin out from the layers of the core and the segmental pressure-sensitive adhesive coat between spacer and film leads to an optimal comprehensive solution which on the one hand does not diminish the water 10 vapour-permeable property of the film and on the other can be performed at negligibly low cost. Also, the laminate formed in this manner remains longitudinally and transversally elastic so that the rigid bandage can be applied to a part of the body, e.g. an arm or a leg, free from 15 folds or creases and moreover dries within an appropriate time.

Further embodiments of the invention are provided according to the subclaims.

20 One embodiment of the rigid bandage provides that the layers of longitudinal strips forming the core are impregnated with polyurethane resin.
This resin is especially suitable for curing by means of air humidity or water.

25 One may make use of the measure that the nonwoven consists 100% of polyester fibres.

Furthermore the invention provides that the layer of nonwoven forms a laminate with the cover film, said laminate 30 being longitudinally and transversally elastic and being water vapour-permeable.

Finally, one embodiment provides that the layer of the hydrophobic synthetic cotton wool has a thickness between 1 and 8 mm, preferably between 1.5 and 5 mm, and especially preferred 2.5 mm.

The use of the synthetic rigid bandage according to the invention is uncomplicated and time-saving since the padding of a simple rigid bandage can be dispensed with. Handling is easy, gloves are not required, the so-called 5 plaster room remains clean.

The width and length of the rigid bandage is chosen in accordance with the indication, and the required length is removed from the package.

The site of the cut is immediately closed carefully in 10 order to avoid curing caused by access of air humidity. For this purpose, the material end is preferably folded inwardly over several centimetres and closed moisture-tight.

Then, the severed rigid bandage is dipped into water tempered to about 20-30 °C, is subsequently folded and 15 excess water is pressed out. Then, by slightly stretching, the pad is drawn over the glass fibre cutting edges.

For application, the mouldable material is fixed with an elastic bandage at an end thereof, subsequently it is moulded by hand to the body part to be supported, and then 20 one has to wait, if possible without movement, until the rigid bandage has set in 3 to 5 minutes.

The invention is uncomplicated and inexpensive and prevents 25 the unwanted contact between resin and film, so that the bleeding-through of the resin is prevented along with its disadvantages.

In this respect the invention constitutes an optimum solution of the task posed at the outset.

CLAIMS

1. Synthetic rigid bandage especially for splinting and/or supporting a diseased or injured limb of the human or animal apparatus of locomotion, comprising a curable core which is formed by one or more synthetic resin-impregnated layers of longitudinal strips of a textile fabric, is covered at the one side thereof with a pad and on the other side thereof with a water vapour-permeable, longitudinally and/or transversally elastic film or sheet cover, and is to be stored in a moisture-proof package, said core being mouldable in its ready-for-application state, characterized in that the said film or sheet cover is separated from the said resin-impregnated layers by means of a spacer made up of a hydrophobic, air-permeable, longitudinally and/or transversally elastic nonwoven.
2. Rigid bandage according to Claim 1, characterized in that the textile fabric forming the core is impregnated with polyurethane resin.
3. Rigid bandage according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the spacer is connected with the covering film or sheet by means of a water vapour-permeable pressure-sensitive adhesive coating.
4. Rigid bandage according to Claim 3, characterized in that the pressure-sensitive adhesive coating is segmental.
5. Rigid bandage according to one or more of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the spacer of the film or sheet cover comprises a water-repellent textile fabric, nonwoven or foamed plastic.
6. Rigid bandage according to one or more of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the spacer forms a laminate with

the outer plastics film, which laminate is longitudinally and transversally elastic.

7. Rigid bandage according to one or more of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the spacer has a thickness of between 1 and 8 mm, preferably between 1.5 and 5 mm, and especially preferred 2.5 mm.

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ABSTRACT

5 A synthetic rigid bandage especially for splinting and/or supporting a diseased or injured limb of the human or animal apparatus of locomotion, comprising a curable core which is formed by one or more synthetic resin-impregnated layers of longitudinal strips of a textile fabric, is covered at the one side thereof with a pad and on the other 10 side thereof with a water vapour-pervious, longitudinally and/or transversally elastic film or sheet cover, and is to be stored in a moisture-proof package, said core being mouldable in its ready-for-application state, is characterized in that the said film or sheet cover is separated 15 from the said resin-impregnated layers by means of a spacer.